(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(d) Does not arise.

Attraction of foreign tourists

3630. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether with incredible India continuing to lag far behind not only with neighbouring China but also many of the smaller countries in the South East Asian region in attracting foreign tourists, her Ministry has demanded more budget provisions for providing incentives that will give it a much needed boost;

(b) if so, to what extent her Ministry has got concessions from the budget; and

(c) what steps are being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Annual Plan Outlay for the Ministry of Tourism has been raised to Rs. 953.00 crores for the year 2007-08 as against a budget allocation of Rs. 830.00 crores in 2006-07. The annual Plan Outlay is utilized as per approved schemes implemented through the State Governments and Private Sector entities.

Budget hotels and accommodation to promote tourism

3631. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the tariff charged by the luxury hotels in the premier tourist destination of the country;

(b) whether Government propose to appreciate that such tariff is not affordable for common people; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to promote Budget hotels and accommodation to promote tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (c) Hotels fix their own tariff structure. Due to shortage of hotel accommodation in some metro cities and important tourist destinations, the room tariffs are reported to be high.

(c) Ministry of Tourism has requested State/UT Governments and other land owning agencies like DDA, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Indian Railways etc. to allocate land for building hotels especially in the budget category. They have been advised to follow investor friendly land policies and single window approach for promoting hotel projects and also for allotting sites on revenue sharing basis, granting extra FSI/FAR for hotels, permitting extra commercial usage in the hotels etc., so that the Budget Hotels are promoted. further, in order to increased the number of rooms in the budget category, a scheme for approval of Guest houses and Incredible India Bed and Breakfast establishments has been introduced.

Development of special tourism area along the coastline in Puri

3632 SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop a special tourism area along the coastline in Puri;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the status of this project; and

(c) what is the action plan of the Centre to help the State both physically and financially, for speedy execution of this project to improve the economy of this backward region?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise.